Docket No.: R2184.0137/P137
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hideaki Hirai, et al.

Application No.: 10/086,442 | Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: March 4, 2002 | Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: OPTICAL ELEMENT, OPTICAL
      PICKUP UNIT, AND OPTICAL DISK
      DRIVE UNIT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned.

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08 is:

[X] not given

[ ] given for each listed item

[ ] given for only non-English language listed items

[ ] in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Examiner is directed to also consider U.S. Application Serial No. 09/344,120, filed on June 24, 1999 (unpublished) and U.S. Application Serial No. 09/384,377, filed on August 27, 1999 (unpublished).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper

hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1073, under Order No. R2184.0137/P137.

Dated: December 11, 2002   Respectfully submitted,

By _Gabriele Coman_

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO	Complete if Kn wn	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT *(use as many sheets as necessary)*	Application Number	10/086,442
	Filing Date	March 4, 2002
	First Named Inventor	Hideaki Hirai
	Art Unit	N/A
	Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0137/P137

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Document Number — Number-Kind Code[2] *(if known)*	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA	5,428,588	06-27-1995	Ohuchida	RECEIVED
	AB	5,684,779	11-04-1997	Ohuchida et al.	
	AC	US2001/0026523	10-04-2001	Ohuchida et al.	DEC 1 3 2002
	AD	US2001/0018433	02-14-2002	Ohuchida	
	AE				Technology Center 2600
	AF				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document — Country Code[3]-Number[4]-Kind Code[5] *(if known)*	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant

[1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. [3] Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4] For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. [5] Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. [6] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[2]

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

[1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

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